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***Manner: TRAFFIC***

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During the calendar year 2006, the Medical Examiner's Office participated in the investigation of 211 traffic fatalities. There were 144 traffic deaths where the collision occurred in King County, compared to 152 in 2005, 127 in 2004, 112 in 2003 and 121 in 2002. In 2006, 32% (67/211) of the traffic deaths that the Medical Examiner investigated were the result of collisions that occurred outside of King County with the injured transported to hospitals in King County, primarily Harborview Medical Center. Because the death occurred in King County, it came under the jurisdiction of the King County Medical Examiner. This is comparable to 33% (74/226) in 2005, 34% (65/192) in 2004, 37% (67/179) in 2003 and 40% (82/203) in 2002. Although these deaths are classified "accident" for death certification purposes, the more accurate term is "motor vehicle collision."

In 2006, 44% (92/211) of the traffic fatalities were motor vehicle drivers. Teenage drivers (16-19 years of age) were 17% (16/92) of the driver deaths in 2006 compared to 5% (5/99) in 2005, 4% (3/78) in 2004, 15% (11/76) in 2003 and 9% (9/100) in 2002. By age, 13% percent of vehicle driver deaths (12/92) were people between the ages of 20 and 29. Eighteen percent of driver deaths (17/92) were adults between the ages of 30 and 39. Seventeen percent (16/92) were adults between the ages of 40 and 49. Male drivers represented 77% (71/92) of driver deaths as compared to 23% for female drivers (21/92).

Of the 211 traffic fatalities in 2006, 44 were motor vehicle passengers, representing 21% of the total (44/211). In 2006, teenagers (13-19 years old) accounted for 11 motor vehicle passenger deaths. There was one passenger death of an infant (less than one year of age), no deaths of children between the ages of 1-5 years, and one death of a child between the ages of 6-12 years.

Blood ethanol (alcohol) statistics are presented to describe the role of alcohol in traffic deaths. However, it should be noted that in many cases someone other than the person who died was under the influence of alcohol and directly responsible for the accident. The Medical Examiner determines the blood alcohol levels of persons who die, not of everyone involved in the incident. In addition, blood alcohol is not tested in persons who die after surviving more than 24 hours, because in those deaths the alcohol has had time to metabolize<sup>1</sup>. Therefore, blood alcohol figures presented in this report are not a total description of the role of alcohol in traffic collisions. In 33% (24/73) of drivers tested, blood ethanol was present. In 19 vehicle driver deaths, no alcohol determination was performed. Passenger fatalities showed the presence of alcohol in 55% (21/38) of victims tested.

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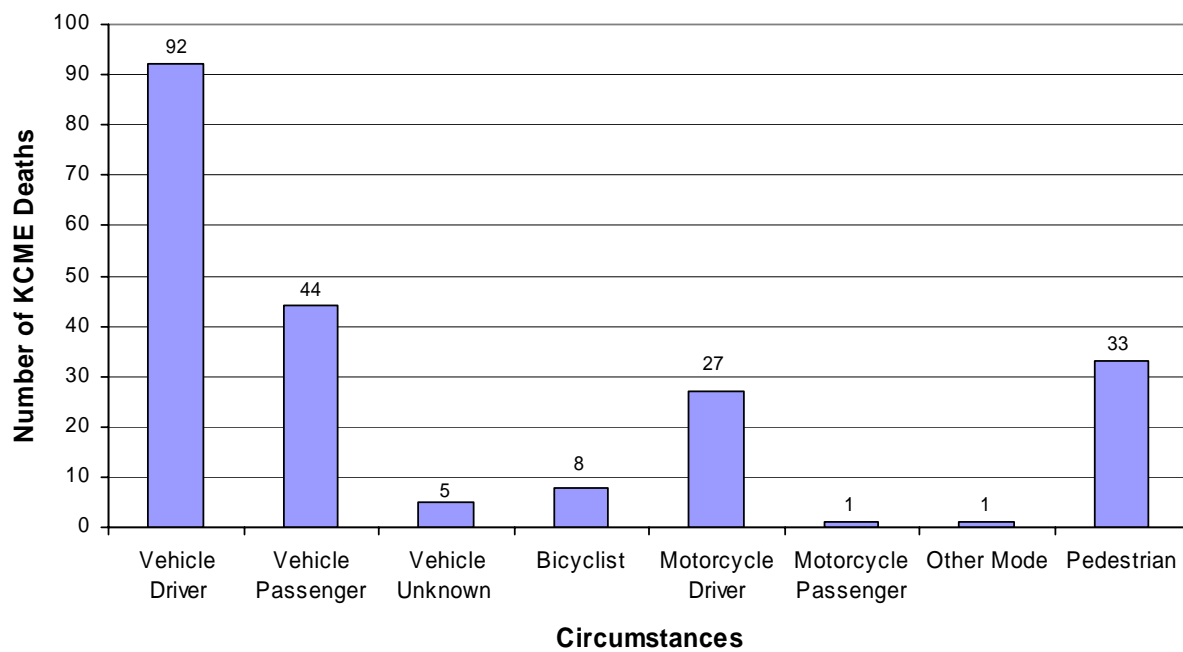
<sup>1</sup>See "Explanation of Data" for criteria for blood alcohol testing, page 6.

Of cases in which restraint status was known, 35% (29/84) of drivers in vehicle deaths were not restrained. This is comparable to 37% (32/87) in 2005, 37% (25/68) in 2004, 37% (18/49) in 2003 and 43% (30/69) in 2002. Of the vehicle drivers who died at the scene of the collision and who tested positive for blood alcohol, 44% (7/16) were unrestrained.

Motorcycle riders accounted for 13% (28/211) of traffic fatalities. In 2006, there were 27 motorcycle driver fatalities and one motorcycle passenger fatality. Twenty-five of the motorcycle driver deaths were male, and two were female. Of the 28 motorcycle fatalities, 100% (28/28) of the motorcyclists were wearing a helmet. Twenty-three of the motorcyclist fatalities were tested for the presence of blood alcohol. Eight, or 35% (8/23), had a detectable amount of alcohol at the time of autopsy.

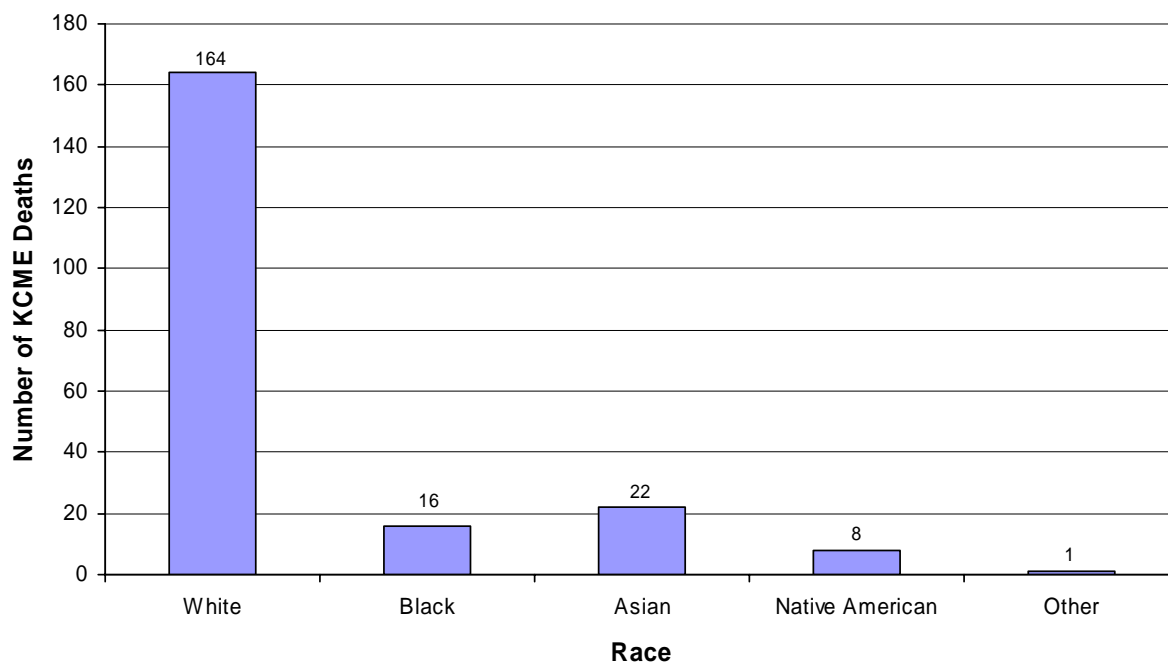
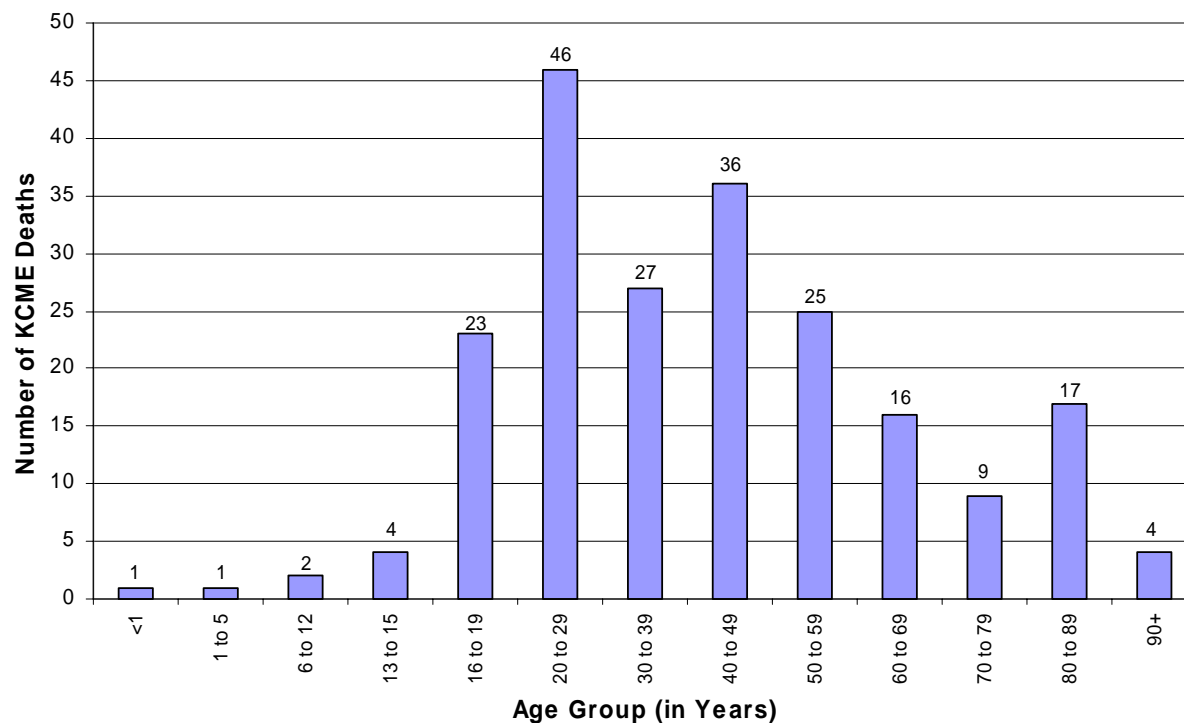
Pedestrians constituted 16% (33/211) of traffic fatalities. The majority of pedestrian deaths, 76% (25/33), were male. Of the pedestrian fatalities that were tested, 29% (8/28) had detectable amounts of alcohol present in their blood at the time of death.

There were eight bicyclist deaths in 2006. Four riders were wearing a helmet, one rider was not wearing a helmet, and helmet use by the other three bicyclists is not known.

**Graph 7-1      Traffic Fatality Circumstances / King County Medical Examiner / 2006**

**Table 7-1 Traffic Fatality Circumstances / Race / Sex / KCME / 2006**

CIRCUMSTANCES / SEX	RACE					SUB TOTAL	TOTAL
	WHITE	BLACK	ASIAN	NATIVE AMERICAN	OTHER		
Vehicle Driver	70	8	10	3	1		92
<i>Male</i>	52	8	9	2	0	71	
<i>Female</i>	18	0	1	1	1	21	
Vehicle Passenger	28	5	7	4	0		44
<i>Male</i>	17	4	4	4	0	29	
<i>Female</i>	11	1	3	0	0	15	
Vehicle Unknown	3	1	0	1	0		5
<i>Male</i>	2	0	0	1	0	3	
<i>Female</i>	1	1	0	0	0	2	
Bicycle	8	0	0	0	0		8
<i>Male</i>	7	0	0	0	0	7	
<i>Female</i>	1	0	0	0	0	1	
Motorcycle Driver	24	1	2	0	0		27
<i>Male</i>	22	1	2	0	0	25	
<i>Female</i>	2	0	0	0	0	2	
Motorcycle Passenger	1	0	0	0	0		1
<i>Male</i>	1	0	0	0	0	1	
<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Other Mode	1	0	0	0	0		1
<i>Male</i>	1	0	0	0	0	1	
<i>Female</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Pedestrian	29	1	3	0	0		33
<i>Male</i>	23	0	2	0	0	25	
<i>Female</i>	6	1	1	0	0	8	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>211</b>
Percent	78%	7.5%	10%	4%	0.5%		100%

**Graph 7-2 Traffic Fatalities / Race / King County Medical Examiner / 2006****Graph 7-3 Traffic Fatalities / Age / King County Medical Examiner / 2006**

**Table 7-2 Traffic Fatality Circumstances / Age / Sex / KCME / 2006**

Circumstances / Sex	AGE GROUP (YEARS)														SUB TOTAL	TOTAL
	< 1	1 to 5	6 to 12	13 to 15	16 to 19	20 to 29	30 to 39	40 to 49	50 to 59	60 to 69	70 to 79	80 to 89	90 +			
Vehicle Driver	0	0	0	0	16	12	17	16	9	6	4	10	2	92		
Male	0	0	0	0	12	10	11	15	8	5	2	6	2	71		
Female	0	0	0	0	4	2	6	1	1	1	2	4	0	21		
Vehicle Passenger	1	0	1	4	6	19	3	3	1	1	2	3	0	44		
Male	0	0	0	3	4	14	2	2	0	1	1	2	0	29		
Female	1	0	1	1	2	5	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	15		
Vehicle Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	5		
Male	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	3		
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2		
Bicyclist	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	3	1	0	1	0	8		
Male	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	2	1	0	1	0	7		
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1		
Motorcycle Driver	0	0	0	0	0	9	3	6	6	2	0	1	0	27		
Male	0	0	0	0	0	9	3	5	5	2	0	1	0	25		
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2		
Motorcycle Passenger	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1		
Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1		
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Other Mode	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1		
Male	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1		
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Pedestrian	0	1	1	0	0	4	1	9	6	5	3	1	2	33		
Male	0	1	1	0	0	4	1	4	5	5	2	1	1	25		
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	1	0	1	0	1	8		
Totals	1	1	2	4	23	46	27	36	25	16	9	17	4	211		
Percent	0.5	0.5	0.9	1.9	10.9	21.8	12.8	17.1	11.8	7.6	4.3	8.0	1.9	100%		

**Table 7-3 Traffic Fatality Circumstances / Sex / King County Medical Examiner / 2006**

CIRCUMSTANCES	SEX		TOTAL
	MALE	FEMALE	
Vehicle Driver	71	21	92
Vehicle Passenger	29	15	44
Vehicle Unknown	3	2	5
Bicyclist	7	1	8
Motorcycle Driver	25	2	27
Motorcycle Passenger	1	0	1
Other Mode	1	0	1
Pedestrian	25	8	33
<b>Totals</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>211</b>
Percent	77%	23%	100%

**Table 7-4 Traffic Fatality Circumstances / Use of Restraint / Helmet / KCME / 2006<sup>2</sup>**

CIRCUMSTANCES	Used Safety Device	No Safety Device Used	Unknown	TOTAL
Vehicle Driver	55	29	8	92
Vehicle Passenger	22	17	5	44
Vehicle Unknown	0	1	4	5
Bicyclist	4	1	3	8
Motorcycle Driver	27	0	0	27
Motorcycle Passenger	1	0	0	1
Other Mode	0	1	0	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>178</b>
Percent	61%	28%	11%	100%

<sup>2</sup>Does not include pedestrian deaths.

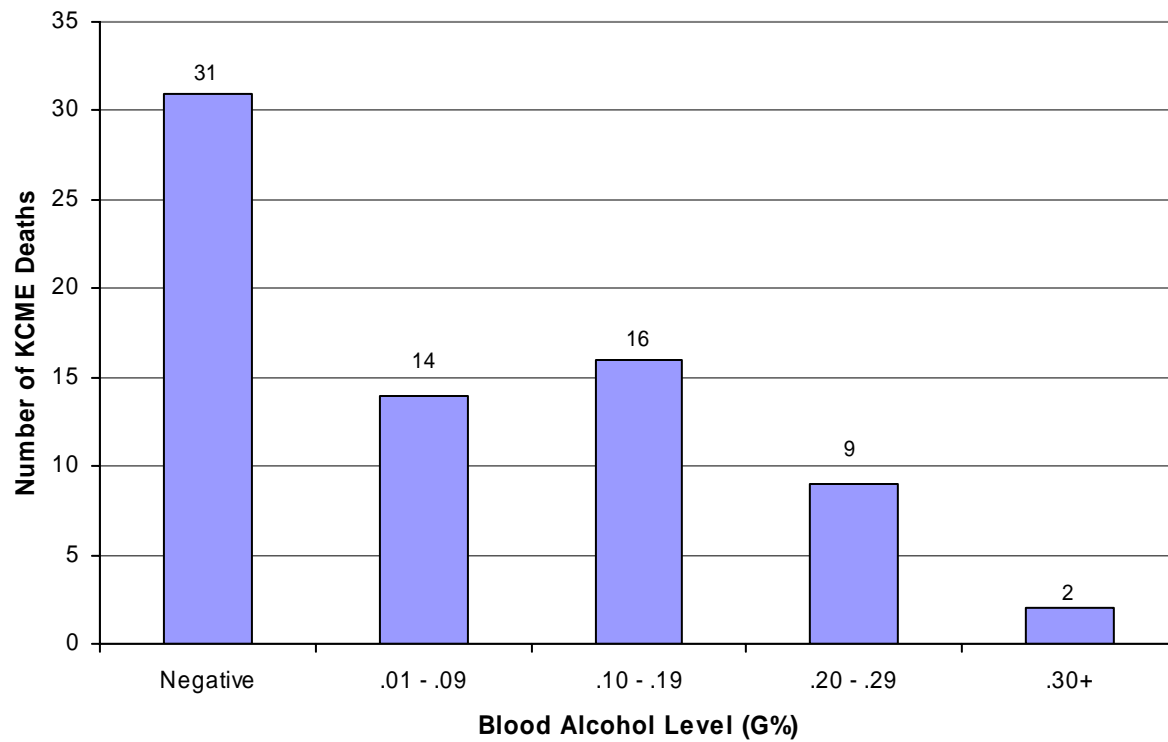
**Table 7-5 Traffic Fatality Circumstances / Blood Alcohol / KCME / 2006**

CIRCUMSTANCES	TESTED		NOT TESTED	TOTAL
	POSITIVE	NEGATIVE		
Vehicle Driver	24	49	19	92
Vehicle Passenger	21	17	6	44
Vehicle Unknown	1	3	1	5
Bicyclist	0	4	4	8
Motorcycle Driver	8	15	4	27
Motorcycle Passenger	0	0	1	1
Other Mode	1	0	0	1
Pedestrian	8	20	5	33
<b>Totals</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>211</b>
Percent	30%	51%	19%	100%

**Table 7-6 Blood Alcohol Levels of Traffic Fatalities who died AT THE SCENE of the Collision / King County Medical Examiner / 2006**

CIRCUMSTANCES	BLOOD ALCOHOL LEVEL (G%)					TOTAL
	NONE	.01-.09	.10-.19	.20-.29	.30+	
Vehicle Driver	17	2	10	3	1	33
Vehicle Passenger	6	7	3	3	1	20
Vehicle Unknown	0	1	0	0	0	1
Bicyclist	0	0	0	0	0	0
Motorcycle Driver	2	1	3	0	0	6
Motorcycle Passenger	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Mode	0	0	0	1	0	1
Pedestrian	6	3	0	2	0	11
<b>Totals</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>72</b>
Percent	43%	19%	22%	13%	3%	100%

**Graph 7-4 Blood Alcohol Levels of Traffic Fatalities who Died AT THE SCENE / King County Medical Examiner / 2006**



**Table 7-7 Time of Fatal Traffic Collision / King County Medical Examiner / 2006**

TIME OF DAY	TOTAL	PERCENT
12:01 AM - 3:00 AM	38	18.0%
3:01 AM - 6:00 AM	20	9.5%
6:01 AM - 9:00 AM	21	10.0%
9:01 AM - Noon	19	9.0%
12:01 PM - 3:00 PM	36	17.0%
3:01 PM - 6:00 PM	22	10.4%
6:01 PM - 9:00 PM	23	10.9%
9:01 PM -Midnight	31	14.7%
Unknown	1	0.5%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Graph 7-5 Time of Fatal Traffic Collision / King County Medical Examiner / 2006**